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# The Animal Gazer

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Ahab's Wife  
The Monist  
Where I Am  
The animal kingdom. Transl  
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*The Animal Gazer*

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## AUGUST RYAN

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**Rembrandt Bugatti** New Vessel Press

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A TODAY SHOW #ReadWithJenna BOOK CLUB PICK • The unforgettable story of a daredevil female aviator determined to chart her own course in life, at any cost: an “epic trip—through Prohibition and World War II, from Montana to London to present-day Hollywood—and you’ll relish every minute” (People). After being rescued as infants from a sinking ocean liner in 1914, Marian and Jamie Graves are raised by their dissolute uncle in Missoula, Montana. There—after encountering a pair of barnstorming pilots passing through town in beat-up biplanes—Marian commences her lifelong love affair with flight. At fourteen she drops out of school and finds an unexpected and dangerous patron in a wealthy bootlegger who provides a plane and subsidizes her lessons, an arrangement that will haunt her for the rest of her life, even as it allows her to fulfill her destiny: circumnavigating the globe by flying over the North and South Poles. A century later, Hadley Baxter is cast to play Marian in a film that centers on Marian's disappearance in Antarctica. Vibrant, canny, disgusted with the claustrophobia of Hollywood, Hadley is eager to redefine herself after a romantic film franchise has imprisoned her in the grip of cult celebrity. Her immersion into the character of Marian unfolds, thrillingly, alongside Marian's own story, as the two women's fates—and their hunger for self-determination in vastly different geographies and times—collide. Epic and emotional, meticulously researched and gloriously told, *Great Circle* is a monumental work of art, and a tremendous leap forward for the prodigiously gifted Maggie Shipstead.

**Ahab's Wife** New Vessel Press

From Argentina to Italy, the intense, metaphysical and poetic story of a gardener in love, by Italy's most prominent writer. "A man's life lasts as long as three horses. You have already buried the first." Somewhere along the coastline of Italy, a man passes his days in solitude and silence, tending a garden and reading books of travel and adventure. Through these simple routines he

seeks to quiet the painful memories of the past: a life on the run from Argentina's Dirty War; a young bride 'disappeared' by the military; a terrifying escape through the wilds of Patagonia. Yet everywhere he turns, new life is pulsing, ready to awaken his senses, like the force that drives his fruit trees into bloom. People and events from the past and present migrate into patterns assigned by a metaphysical geometry. A woman of the world reintroduces him to love. An African day laborer teaches him the meaning of gratitude. In this intense narrative, every acute observation, every nuance, becomes a means of salvation. Using a language that is both gripping and contemplative, *Three Horses* is an unforgettable tale. Praise for *The Sea of Memory*: "Poetic . . . charged with anger and desire." -The New York Times Book Review "Alluring . . . shimmeringly lyrical." -Publishers Weekly [The Monist](#) New Vessel Press

Put simply, it's time for a national update on college fraternities. Greek life today makes *Animal House* look like a Pixar movie. The amount of alcohol that is being consumed, promiscuous sex that is being enjoyed, and intense drug-induced raging that is taking place on campuses across the country has quietly reached ridiculous new heights. Written with the goal of being the most fun you've ever had reading a book, *Total Frat Move* pulls back the curtain on this world of hard-partying American decadence. The stories are unabashed. They are hilarious. And they are going to blow you away. You're welcome, world.

**Where I Am** Createspace Independent Publishing Platform "Establishes Dana Shem-Ur as one of the rising stars of the new Israeli literature."—Joshua Cohen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Netanyahu's* A piercing novel about life abroad in a cultural setting not one's own: Reut is an Israeli translator living in Paris with a French husband and their child. She's made sacrifices for her family but now feels a simmering discontent and estrangement that erupts at a festive dinner party with affluent, intellectual friends. During the sumptuous meal, she navigates a tangle of cultural codes with which she's never been fully at ease. This is a novel about big life choices that examines a woman's attitudes toward belonging to a man, to a culture, to a language. *Where I Am* is an intimate, witty book portraying a profoundly

human yearning to stop everything, to lay down one's head, and to feel—if only for a moment—at home.

*The animal kingdom. Transl* New Vessel Press

NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER "Disarmingly tender and feverishly sad, Gardel's love story is a delirium of a novel that reminds its readers of an uncomfortable truth: that even a life of regret can be a beautiful one."—Patrick Nathan, author of *Some Hell* A letter has beckoned to Raimundo since he received it over fifty years ago from his youthful passion, handsome Cicero. But having grown up in an impoverished area of Brazil where the demands of manual labor thwarted his becoming literate, Raimundo has long been unable to read. As young men, he and Cicero fell in love, only to have Raimundo's father brutally beat his son when he discovered their affair. Even after Raimundo succeeds in making a life for himself in the big city, he continues to be haunted by this secret missive full of longing from the distant past. Now at age seventy-one, he at last acquires a true education and the ability to access the letter. Exploring Brazil's little-known hinterland as well its urban haunts, this is a sweeping novel of repression, violence, and shame, along with their flip side: survival, endurance, and the ultimate triumph of an unforgettable figure on society's margins. *The Words That Remain* explores the universal power of the written word and language, and how they affect all our relationships.

*The Animal Gazer* New Vessel Press

"A tour de force—exquisite and gripping."—Philippe Sands, author of *East West Street* The Soviet and post-Soviet world, with its untold multitude of crimes, is a natural breeding ground for ghost stories. No one writes them more movingly than Russian author Sergei Lebedev, who in this stunning volume probes a collective guilty conscience marked by otherworldliness and the denial of misdeeds. These eleven tales share a mystical topography in which the legacy of totalitarian regimes is ever-present—from Katyn to Chechnya, from Lithuanian KGB documents to the streetscape of unified Berlin, from the fragments of family history to the echoes of foot soldiers in Russia's wars of aggression. In these stories, as in Lebedev's acclaimed novels, the voices of things, places, animals, and people seek justice for a restless

past, where steel claws scrape just beneath the surface and where the heredity of evil is uninterrupted, unacknowledged, unnamed.

The Gazer Within New Vessel Press

Will a city girl's horse dreams ever come true? For Jordan McKenzie, moving from Los Angeles to rural Michigan was a big change. In LA, she was used to giant shopping malls and classmates who came to school in makeup and heels. In North Adams, Michigan, the nearest Walmart is thirty miles away. Since Jordan is a jeans-and-sneakers kind of girl, she hoped she'd fit in better here—plus, there are horses in Michigan! She has wanted one forever, but in LA they were too expensive. Draft horses—gentle giants—are her favorites, with their dependable demeanors, huge size, and muscle power. Even though all the North Adams kids have horses, Jordan's busy mother barely agrees to let her coop a couple of chickens on their newly rented farm. Jordan's wish may never come true. Then she meets Star Gazer, a Percheron mare, at a farm auction and makes a desperate bid to save the aging horse from the slaughterhouse. Jordan is thrilled to bring her home, but Star Gazer is lame and skittish. Can Jordan's loving care nurse her back to health? And can she make Star Gazer a part of the family before her mother decides to find her a new home?

Goodness and the Literary Imagination New Vessel Press

Stubby is a little ferret in BIG trouble! One night, Stubby escapes from a research laboratory and meets a woman named Barbara. When Barbara takes him to the animal shelter, Stubby thinks his troubles are over. But Stubby has another thing to worry about: a woman in a long white coat named Delores!

**Of Saints and Miracles** BoD - Books on Demand

"Intensely readable and beautifully observed . . . full of wisdom, generosity, humor, and sharp insights." —Elif Batuman, author of *Either/Or* Three Israeli women, their lives altered by immigration to the United States, seek to overcome crises. Ilana is a veteran Hebrew instructor at a Midwestern college who has built her life around her career. When a young Hebrew literature professor joins the faculty, she finds his post-Zionist politics pose a threat to her life's work. Miriam, whose son left Israel to make his fortune in Silicon Valley, pays an unwanted visit to meet her new grandson and discovers cracks in the family's perfect façade. Efrat, another Israeli in California, is determined to help her

daughter navigate the challenges of middle school, and crosses forbidden lines when she follows her into the minefield of social media. In these three stirring novellas—comedies of manners with an ambitious blend of irony and sensitivity—celebrated Israeli author Maya Arad probes the demise of idealism and the generation gap that her heroines must confront.

Elements of the Natural History of the Animal Kingdom New Vessel Press

From the opening line—"Captain Ahab was neither my first husband nor my last"—you will know that you are in the hands of a master storyteller and in the company of a fascinating woman hero. Inspired by a brief passage in *Moby-Dick*, Sena Jeter Naslund has created an enthralling and compellingly readable saga, spanning a rich, eventful, and dramatic life. At once a family drama, a romantic adventure, and a portrait of a real and loving marriage, *Ahab's Wife* gives new perspective on the American experience. This P.S. edition features an extra 16 pages of insights into the book, including author interviews, recommended reading, and more.

**The Bishop's Bedroom** New Vessel Press

"Poetic and magical ... Astur's language is meticulous and vivid."—*Asymptote* A literary crime novel about family conflict in the Spanish countryside: breathtaking, tragic, sensuous and magical. Marcelino lives alone on his parents' farm, set deep in the beautiful but impoverished countryside of northern Spain. It's the place where he grew up, the place where he doted on his baby brother, the place where he protected his mother from their father's drunken rages. But when Marcelino's brother tricks him out of his house and land, a moment of anger sparks a chain of events that can't be reversed. Marcelino flees to the wild peaks of rural Asturias, becoming a cult hero as he evades the authorities. Into this, author Manuel Astur interweaves family tales and fables about the sun and the moon, about death and love, and offers glimpses into the lives of other villagers and the history of their community. Astur's poetic language and seamless blend of lyricism with the grotesque renders this book a treasure for the reader. *Of Saints and Miracles* is a sensuous portrayal of an outcast's struggle to survive in a chaotic world of both tragedy and magical splendor.

The Words That Remain New Vessel Press

"Explosively passionate, this story of forbidden love and unmet

potential is ... for anyone who's ever felt the ineffable power of music." —Aja Gabel, author of *The Ensemble* *The Piano Student* is a novel about regret, secrecy, and music, involving an affair between one of the 20th century's most celebrated pianists, Vladimir Horowitz, and his young male student, Nico Kaufmann, in the late 1930s. As Europe hurtles toward political catastrophe and Horowitz ascends to the pinnacle of artistic achievement, the great pianist hides his illicit passion from his wife Wanda, daughter of the renowned conductor Arturo Toscanini. Based on unpublished letters by Horowitz to Kaufmann that author Lea Singer discovered in Switzerland, this is a riveting and sensitive tale of musical perfection, love, and longing denied, with multiple historical layers and insights into artistic creativity.

**The Piano Student** New Vessel Press

"Art, love and longing, the French way . . . an emotionally taut portrayal of late-in-life, post-marriage drift" from the author of *The 6:41 to Paris* (*The New York Times Book Review*). A French teacher on the verge of retirement is invited to a glittering opening that showcases the artwork of his former student, who has since become a celebrated painter. This unexpected encounter leads to the older man posing for his portrait. Possibly in the nude. Such personal exposure at close range entails a strange and troubling pact between artist and sitter that prompts both to reevaluate their lives. Blondel, author of the hugely popular novel *The 6:41 to Paris*, evokes an intimacy of dangerous intensity in a tale marked by profound nostalgia and a reckoning with the past that allows its two characters to move ahead into the future. "A striking variation on the theme of the muse, this novel probes overlapping varieties of attraction . . . It veers toward the erotic, quickening the painter's search for the model's soul—a term that disintegrates the moment you try to define it."—*The New Yorker* "Captivating . . . The novel flies by with gentle humor, but it also poses complex questions about the meaning of art and sexuality, and offers an elegiac look at late middle age . . . Irresistible, and the story's fundamental kindness sets it apart."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review) "A novel of tender, shy wisdom whose characters remind each other that memory lives in the body, loosened like knots by the right touch." —Patrick Nathan, author of *Image Control*

The Animal-lore of Shakspeare's Time. Including Quadrupeds, Birds, Reptiles, Fish and Insects New Vessel Press

This acclaimed debut novel takes readers inside the mind of a young and deeply conflicted Israeli soldier: "Israel's own *The Catcher in the Rye*" (The Los Angeles Review of Books). *The Drive* follows the emotional and psychological journey of a young Israeli soldier who is unable to carry out his military service yet terrified of the consequences of leaving the army. As the unnamed soldier and his father drive along the Coastal Highway to meet with a military psychiatrist, Yair Assulin offers a penetrating view of Israeli society, a young man in crisis, and the universal urge to resist regimentation and violence. Weary of being forced to join a larger collective, the soldier yearns for an existence free of politics, the news cycle, and perpetual battle-readiness. But to seek such a life would mean risking the respect of those he loves most. *The Drive* is a compelling story of an urgent personal quest to reconcile duty, expectations and individual instinct.

**A Very Irish Christmas** Other Press, LLC

"A thriller dipped in poison ... shares some of le Carré's fascination with secret worlds and the nature of evil." —The New York Times The terrifying, lengthening list of Russia's use of lethal poisons against its critics has inspired acclaimed author Sergei Lebedev's latest novel. With uncanny timing, he examines how and why Russia and the Soviet Union have developed horrendous neurotoxins. At its center is a ruthless chemist named Professor Kalitin, obsessed with developing an absolutely deadly, undetectable, and untraceable poison for which there is no antidote. But Kalitin becomes consumed by guilt over countless deaths from his Faustian pact to create the ultimate venom. When the Soviet Union collapses, the chemist defects and is given a new identity in Western Europe. After another Russian is murdered with Kalitin's poison, his cover is blown and he's drawn into an investigation of the death by Western agents. Two special forces killers are sent to silence him—using his own undetectable poison. In this fast-paced, genre-bending tale, Lebedev weaves suspenseful pages of stunningly beautiful prose exploring the historical trajectories of evil. From Nazi labs, Stalinist plots, and the Chechen Wars, to present-day Russia, Lebedev probes the ethical responsibilities of scientists supplying modern tyrants and autocrats with ever newer instruments of retribution, destruction, and control.

**Sleepless Night** Harper Collins

Most tourism theories have been developed from the tourists'

perspective and focus on the Anglo-American experience. This unique book for researchers and students of tourism is the first to look at the host gaze; how it is constructed, how it has developed, how it varies between countries and how the tourism industry can affect it. By looking at the gazes of both Western and non-Western hosts, this book analyses the consequences such a gaze can have upon the tourist.

**Total Frat Move** New Vessel Press

"Engrossing ... The book reads like a detective story."—The Washington Post It all started with a list of paintings. There, scribbled by a cousin she hadn't seen for years, were the names of the masters whose works once belonged to her great-grandfather, Jules Strauss: Renoir, Monet, Degas, Tiepolo, and more. Pauline Baer de Perignon knew little to nothing about Strauss, or about his vanished, precious art collection. But the list drove her on a frenzied trail of research in the archives of the Louvre and the Dresden museums, through Gestapo records, and to consult with Nobel laureate Patrick Modiano. What happened in 1942? And what became of the collection after Nazis seized her great-grandparents' elegant Parisian apartment? The quest takes Pauline Baer de Perignon from the Occupation of France to the present day as she breaks the silence around the wrenching experiences her family never fully transmitted, and asks what art itself is capable of conveying over time.

**Exposed** University of Virginia Press

What exactly is goodness? Where is it found in the literary imagination? Toni Morrison, one of American letters' greatest voices, pondered these perplexing questions in her celebrated Ingersoll Lecture, delivered at Harvard University in 2012 and published now for the first time in book form. Perhaps because it is overshadowed by the more easily defined evil, goodness often escapes our attention. Recalling many literary examples, from Ahab to Coetzee's Michael K, Morrison seeks the essence of goodness and ponders its significant place in her writing. She considers the concept in relation to unforgettable characters from her own works of fiction and arrives at conclusions that are both eloquent and edifying. In a lively interview conducted for this book, Morrison further elaborates on her lecture's ideas, discussing goodness not only in literature but in society and history—particularly black history, which has responded to centuries of brutality with profound creativity. Morrison's essay is

followed by a series of responses by scholars in the fields of religion, ethics, history, and literature to her thoughts on goodness and evil, mercy and love, racism and self-destruction, language and liberation, together with close examination of literary and theoretical expressions from her works. Each of these contributions, written by a scholar of religion, considers the legacy of slavery and how it continues to shape our memories, our complicities, our outcries, our lives, our communities, our literature, and our faith. In addition, the contributors engage the religious orientation in Morrison's novels so that readers who encounter her many memorable characters such as Sula, *Beloved*, or *Frank Money* will learn and appreciate how Morrison's notions of goodness and mercy also reflect her understanding of the sacred and the human spirit.

**Neapolitan Chronicles** New Vessel Press

A poignant biographical novel about a WWI-era sculptor: "It's difficult not to love the eccentric, fragile Rembrandt Bugatti and suffer alongside him" (The New York Times Book Review). *The Animal Gazer* is a hypnotic novel inspired by the strange and fascinating life of sculptor Rembrandt Bugatti, brother of the fabled automaker. With World War I closing in and the Belle Époque teetering to a end, Bugatti leaves his native Milan for Paris, where he encounters Rodin and casts his bronzes at the same foundry used by the French master. In Paris and then Antwerp, he obsessively observes and sculpts the baboons, giraffes, and panthers in the municipal zoos, finding empathy with their plight and identifying with their life in captivity. But as the Germans drop bombs over the Belgian city, the zoo authorities are forced to make a heart-wrenching decision about the fate of the caged animals, and Bugatti is stricken with grief from which he'll never recover. Rembrandt Bugatti's work is displayed in major museums around the world, and in this prize-winning novel, "an irresistible, elegantly conceived example of biographical fiction," Edgardo Franzosini recreates the young artist's life with lyricism, passion, and sensitivity (Library Journal). "The *Animal Gazer* takes you on a glorious journey into the heart of cosmopolitan Paris as you have never known it before. Through the life of Rembrandt Bugatti, a sculptor with the panache of his name, this lively, fast-paced narrative evokes an exceptional epoch in all its color and eccentric charm." —Nicholas Fox Weber, author of *Le Corbusier: A Life*

The Animal World Displayed, Or the Nature and Qualities of Living   Creatures Described

New Vessel Press  
Vols. 2 and 5 include appendices.